

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6219
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, AF
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION DELEGATION TO VISIT KABUL,
-- MAY 22-JUNE 2

1. DURING AN APRIL 20 CONVERSATION ON OTHER MATTERS, EC COMMISSION DG-I OFFICIAL (JOHN HANSEN) IN CHARGE OF COMMUNITY'S RELATIONS WITH SOUTH ASIA, INFORMED MISSION OFFICER THAT COMMISSION WILL SEND A DELEGATION TO KABUL MAY 22-JUNE 2 TO DISCUSS LONG-STANDING GOA REQUEST TO NEGOTIATE A COMMERCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY. THIS AGREEMENT WOULD REPORTEDLY BE SIMILAR IN SCOPE AND CONTENT TO THOSE CURRENTLY IN FORCE BETWEEN EC AND INDIA AND PAKISTAN, I.E., A GENERAL, NON-PREFERENTIAL TRADE ACCORD WITH PROVISION FOR EXPORT PROMOTION MEASURES, SUCH AS TRADE FAIRS, BUSINESS ROUNDTABLES, ETC.

2. HANSEN INDICATED THAT EC COMMISSION IS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT NEGOTIATING A COOPERATION AGREEMENT ALONG THESE LINES WITH AFGHANISTAN AND, IN FACT, HAS STALLED IN RESPONDING TO GOA REQUEST FOR AT LEAST TWO
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YEARS. THE REASON FOR EARLIER RELUCTANCE TO EXPEDITE RESPONSE TO KABUL'S REQUEST STEMS FROM COMMISSION'S VIEW THAT THERE ARE RELATIVELY FEW, IF ANY, SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC INTERESTS AT STAKE BETWEEN COMMUNITY AND AFGHANISTAN. WHILE NEXT MONTH'S MISSION IS TO BE PURELY EXPLORATORY IN NATURE (TO EXAMINE AREAS OF POTENTIAL OVERLAPPING TRADE INTEREST), HANSEN ADMITTED THAT, IN FINAL

ANALYSIS, A NON-PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENT WILL PROBABLY BE
SIGNED WITH GOA AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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